



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
HUNGARY

**Statement attributable to State Secretary Dr István MIKOLA
representing the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
in his capacity as the Co-President of the Article XIV. Conference**

at the CTBT Ministerial Meeting

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UN Headquarters, New York

Almost exactly a year ago, Hungary, together with Indonesia, had the special honour to formally assume the position of Article XIV Co-Coordinator. Over the past year, jointly and individually, we have been striving to reach out to States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, in order to promote its entry into force and its universalization.

In our interaction with the countries ratification by which is still pending, both Indonesia and Hungary have been conducting an open and frank reflection process on the early entry into force of the CTBT. While reaching out to all countries concerned, we lay particular emphasis on approaching the eight remaining Annex II countries.

A number of earlier examples provide evidence regarding the validity of our leading principle in doing outreach: according to this, any new ratification may potentially trigger others by States in the same region. Ratification by an Annex II State would have a particularly strong triggering effect.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome two new members of the CTBT community, Niue and, most recently, the Republic of the Congo. Hungary looks forward to engaging even more closely with African States, a priority we have established in our joint Action Plan.

With the signature by 183 States and ratification by 163, the CTBT has achieved nearly universal adherence. However, only a Treaty in force will confine the chapter of nuclear testing to history books, thus making the world a much safer place. With the Indonesian Article XIV coordinator, H.E. Marty Natalegawa, we will further intensify our efforts to bring us closer to that goal. In closing, I would like to appeal to all States to make their utmost effort to achieve the entry into force of the CTBT at the earliest possible date.
